

U.S. Consulate General Hermosillo

American Citizen Services Office

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Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico November 3, 2013

This emergency message is being issued to alert U.S. citizens residing and traveling in Sinaloa, Mexico. Tropical Storm Sonia is heading to Sinaloa with expected landfall between 04:00 AM – 05:00 AM between the towns of El Dorado and La Cruz de Elota (this is south of Culiacan/north of Mazatlan). Winds are are projected to reach 75 km/hr with Gusts of 95 Km/hr. Because of this, local authorities in Mazatlan decided Sunday morning, November 3rd, to maintain a civil alert level of "Green".

The Mexican Weather service is calling for 3-6 inches of rain with up to 10 inches expected in isolated areas. Residents should expect flooding in low lying areas and possible flash flooding in mountainous regions.

High tides in Mazatlan will be expected at 2-3 meters. Heavy rain has already started. The port of Mazatlan is closed to small vessels to include shrimp boats and all sport fishing boats. Mexican Navy vessels are patrolling the harbor and all sport boats been asked to go to nearby Marinas.

Mexican Federal Police have reported the closure of the road between Mazatlan and Durango ("la libre"). There is a mudslide at km 237 (close to Mazatlan). Local authorities are currently working on it with the intention of opening at least one lane as soon as possible. The road is closed for trailers, buses, and cars at Km 168 at the point known as "El Divisadero".

Government assisted evacuations have begun in the following communities: Azteca, Pino Suarez, Invasion San Antonio, Infiernillo, Lopez Mateos, Jacarandas, Allende and Francisco Madero. Los Delfines has been placed on alert for possible evacuation.

The Mexican government is currently operating a public shelter at the Mazatlan Convention Center. Support will be provided by Mexican government and military entities. The facility is equipped with food, water, and blankets/mattresses. Emergency generators will provide

electricity for as long as possible. There is currently no information concerning the availability of English language translators or interpreters at the site.

The U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and U.S. Consulate General Hermosillo will continue to monitor Tropical Storm Sonia's track, and will issue updated messages as necessary. U.S. citizens are urged to locate shelter, monitor media reports, and follow all official instructions. U.S. citizens should carry their travel documents at all time (i.e. U.S. Passport, Birth Certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in safe, waterproof locations. We also suggest that U.S. citizens contact friends and family in the United States with updates about their whereabouts.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found on our "<u>Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go</u>" webpage, and on the "<u>Natural Disasters</u>" page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs website. Updated information on travel in Mexico may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

U.S. citizens residing and traveling abroad should review the Department's Worldwide Caution and other travel information when making decisions concerning their travel plans and activities while abroad. U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program** (STEP). U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll directly at the nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the embassy/consulates to contact them in case of emergency.

The U.S. Consulate in Hermosillo is located at Calle Monterrey #141 Poniente, Hermosillo, Sonora Mexico, and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, telephone (662) 289-3500. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the Consulate is 662 256-0741; E-mail: <a href="https://example.com/hermosillo.com/hermosil